

# News Release

**Department of the Interior / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Cameron Prairie NWR  
1428 Highway 27  
Bell City, LA 70630  
337-598-2216**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Alligator Harvests will take place in September**

The annual alligator harvests on Sabine, Cameron Prairie, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges will take place from September 5-October 4, 2012. Each of the permitted hunters will use the standard hook and line sets to fill their tag allotment. Managers of each National Wildlife Refuge caution boaters and anglers to stay away from alligator sets which contain baited hooks and possibly hooked alligators. It is a violation of State and refuge regulations to tamper with alligator sets, including poles, lines or bait.

As alligator hunters check their lines, their boats can become heavy and hard to maneuver. Other visitors operating boats during this period are asked to pass them carefully. As mentioned within Boater Safety Courses, you are responsible for damage caused by your wake. All boaters are reminded to wear life jackets. Drowning is the leading cause of death for boaters across the United States. For additional information about National Wildlife Refuge programs call 337-598-2216.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.